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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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Although recent information indicates that partisan activity in Lithuania has been effectively curtailed by the Soviets, this report is submitted for whatever historical interest it may have.

Partisan Activity

1. Discipline among the Lithuanian partisans was very strict. The average partisan was 23 to 26 years of age. Young people were attracted to the partisan ranks because it was they who faced being drafted into the Soviet Army and who would have had to serve two years' military service.
2. The main center of Lithuanian partisan activity known to source was in the area around Upynas N 55-27, E 22-26, especially in the vicinity of the village of Paezeris I N 55-28, E 22-26. There were also a great many partisans in the area around Laukuva N 55-36, E 22-147.
3. The partisans in the Upynas area published a small newspaper called Miskinis. The paper was mimeographed and was in booklet form, about seven by nine inches in size. It was not issued regularly, but came out at one to three month intervals. The paper contained names of local persons who had perished or who had been arrested or deported, pseudonyms of slain partisans, local news of the area, regulations of the government and how to avoid them, regulations concerning new taxes, and world news derived from the BBC, whose foreign broadcasts are the most easily heard in Lithuania.
4. The last large raid by partisans in the Kaltinenai-Pagrybis area occurred in the winter of 1949-1950. On this occasion the partisans killed seven members of two farm families for having betrayed the partisans. This event occurred in the vicinity of Girsteikiai N 55-31, E 22-23. In 1950 the partisans in this area wore uniforms of the former Lithuanian Army. In 1951 there were no indications of large partisan raids. Individual persons were killed by the partisans, but whole families were no longer attacked.

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5. From August 1947 to August 1948, source was a member of a partisan group which was located in a forest about three kilometers from Damiliai N 56-16, E 23-15. The partisan camp consisted of army tents and was well-equipped, even having typewriters. There were about 50 men in this partisan unit, and they were divided into groups of about 12 to 15 persons. These partisans wore uniforms of the Soviet, German, and Lithuanian armies, as well as civilian clothes. The leaders of the Damiliai group often went to Siauliai N 55-55, E 23-17 to receive orders from partisan headquarters. When leaving for Siauliai, the chief of staff would always say, "I am going to see the general". [redacted] there were connections between the Damiliai partisans and other groups, because [redacted] one or two strange partisans visiting the local leader.
6. In 1947 the Damiliai partisans often attacked the Soviets. Most of these attacks took place in the wooded area which extends for a radius of about 20 kilometers around Damiliai and which includes the village of Joniskis. One of the actions of the Damiliai partisan group in 1947 was the robbery of a bank in Lautiskiai, a village about 30 kilometers from Zagare N 56-21, E 23-15 on the road to Klaipeda. About 20 partisans participated in the raid which took place between 1400 and 1500 one afternoon. Six partisans entered the bank and took 17,000 rubles. All the partisans who participated in the robbery wore Soviet army uniforms. A lend-lease American truck, which the partisans had captured during one of their fights with the Soviets, was used in the bank robbery.
7. [redacted] Lithuanian partisans no longer like or trust the Germans in Lithuania. In 1947-1948 the partisans were on very good terms with the Germans, because the latter were also being persecuted by the militia. The partisans often gave food to the Germans. However, many Germans later worked as agents for the Soviets and betrayed the partisans in the area around Upynas.

Anti-Partisan Activity

8. In Damiliai itself there were only a very few MVD men. The bulk of the anti-partisan forces were in Zagare where the source heard there were 260 to 500 MVD men and 80 to 90 istreibiteli. During the year that source spent with the Damiliai partisans, about 10 of the 50 members of the outfit were lost in battles with the Soviets. The partisans were informed by farmers in the area that Soviet losses during this period were three times as large as partisan losses. The MVD usually used about 15 men in their attacks on the partisans. However, when they were combing an area for partisans, they would use a full company of about 130 men. They also used dogs on such occasions. In September 1947 someone betrayed the Damiliai partisan group and it was forced to flee. During the escape, three partisans were killed. The remaining partisans returned later and set up a new camp near their former one.
9. The town of Upynas N 55-27, E 22-26 is known to have a very large number of militiamen and istreibiteli [redacted] Pasile (not located) also has a large militia station.
10. There are usually about five militiamen in Kaltinenai N 55-33, E 22-27. The chief and his deputy are of Russian nationality. The other two or three militiamen are Lithuanians. As of May 1951, there were 32 members of the istreibiteli in Kaltinenai. Their motivation for being istreibiteli was varied; some were persons who had formerly been comparatively wealthy and who feared deportation for this reason; some were young persons who wanted to make a better living; some were actual Communists. [redacted] each istreibitel wore the Communist Party badge (sic). Not all of them were bad, and [redacted] instances where an istreibitel, supposedly inadvertently during conversations with farmers, would mention which farmhouses were to be checked and the time of the checking. This was very important, since farmers often had partisans staying with them during the day. Some istreibiteli, however, were bad and [redacted] the worst

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istrebiteli in the Kaltinenai area was Geguze (fnu), a young Communist who denounced many inhabitants and caused them to be arrested and deported.

11. The istrebiteli in the Kaltinenai area received all their orders from Varniai N 55-44, E 22-227. Also, when reinforcements were necessary, these came from Varniai. The last large-scale action by the Kaltinenai istrebiteli took place late in 1949, when 200 istrebiteli surrounded the whole local area and searched it carefully, using dogs to aid their efforts. The partisans suffered heavy losses. Everyone was certain that someone had betrayed the partisans.
12. The forests in the area around Pagrybis N 55-32, E 22-567 were combed by the MVD in late fall 1950. About six to seven truckloads of MVD men from Upynas and Varniai or Taurage participated in the action.
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